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Reply to Office Action dated January 23, 2009

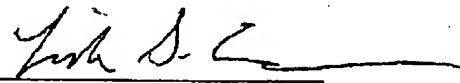
REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5-11 are pending. By the above amendment, the feature previously recited in original claim 4 has been added to claim 1, and claims 2-4 have been canceled. Accordingly, the amendment introduces no new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-8, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on the Sakurai et al. (1998) article. Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious based on Sakurai et al. (1998) in view of Huang et al. (1997). Claim 4 was objected to as being directed to subject matter patentable over the prior art but dependent on a rejected base claim. As the allowable subject matter of claim 4 is now recited in independent claim 1, the prior art rejections have been overcome.

In view of the foregoing, the application is now in condition for allowance, and therefore prompt, favorable action is requested.

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